<u>REMARKS</u>

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated January 19, 2006. Claims 1, 3 to 19, 23, 25 to 41 and 45 are pending in the application, with Claims 2 and 24 having been cancelled. Claims 1, 3 to 10, 23, 25 to 32 and 45 have been amended, and Claims 1, 23 and 45 are in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 10 to 19 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 5,884,249 (Namba); Claims 2 to 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Namba in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,292,767 (Jackson); and Claims 24 to 41 and 45 were rejected under the same rationale as Claims 1 to 19. Claims 2 and 24 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter and without conceding the correctness of their rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the remaining claims are respectfully requested.

The present invention generally concerns information processing. An operation status of a program executed in an apparatus is acquired, and a status concept instance that represents the acquired operation status of the program is generated. A plurality of input means (or units) input different types of information. Information input from each of the plurality of input means (or units) is stored with an input time thereof in a storage means (or unit). At least two types of information stored in the storage means (or unit) are sorted in an order in accordance with the input time. An input concept instance is generated from a sequence of the at least two types of information sorted in the input time order. In addition, the status concept instance and the input concept instance are unified.

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Thus, among its many features, the present invention provides for (i) generating a status concept instance that represents an acquired operation status of a program executed in an apparatus, (ii) generating an input concept instance from a sequence of at least two types of information, which are input from each of a plurality of input means (or units) with an input time and which are sorted in an input time order, and (iii) unifying the status concept instance and the input concept instance.

Referring specifically to the claims, independent Claims 1, 23 and 45 are respectively directed to an apparatus, a method and a computer-readable storage medium.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the invention of the subject application. In particular, Namba and Jackson are not seen to disclose or suggest at least the features of (i) generating a status concept instance that represents an acquired operation status of a program executed in an apparatus, (ii) generating an input concept instance from a sequence of at least two types of information, which are input from each of a plurality of input means (or units) with an input time and which are sorted in an input time order, and (iii) unifying the status concept instance and the input concept instance.

As understood by Applicants, Namba discloses a system in which input is received from a voice recognition section 1, a touch-panel section 2 and a keyboard section 3. Recognition results associated with the input information which have close estimated input times are managed as a semantic analyzing section. See Namba, column 2, lines 10 to 32; column 6, lines 51 to 58; and column 16, line 51 to column 17, line 8.

In other words, Namba is seen to disclose that recognition results are managed based on the closeness of their estimated input times. However, nothing in

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Namba is seen to disclose or suggest the generation of a status concept instance that represents an operation status of a program. Moreover, Namba is not seen to disclose or suggest generating an input concept instance from a sequence of at least two types of information, which are input from each of a plurality of input means (or units) with an input time and which are sorted in an input time order, and unifying the status concept instance and the input concept instance.

In addition, Jackson has been reviewed and is not seen to compensate for the deficiencies of Namba. In particular, although column 3, lines 4 to 58 and Figure 3 of Jackson may be seen to disclose that an interpretation of an input sentence is output in a form corresponding to slot values, Jackson is not seen to disclose or suggest (i) generating a status concept instance that represents an acquired operation status of a program executed in an apparatus, (ii) generating an input concept instance from a sequence of at least two types of information, which are input from each of a plurality of input means (or units) with an input time and which are sorted in an input time order, and (iii) unifying the status concept instance and the input concept instance.

Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 1, 23 and 45 as amended are believed to be allowable over the applied references.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

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